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COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Twenty-third session

SUMMARY RECORD (PARTIAL)* OF THE 588th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Monday, 10 January 2000, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Mrs. OUEDRAOGO

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Status of the amendment to the Convention on the Rights of the Child

* No summary record was prepared for the rest of the meeting (closed).

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GE.00-40210 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

OTHER MATTERS (agenda item 11)

Status of the amendment to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC/SP/25)

1. The CHAIRPERSON welcomed the representatives of States parties who had responded to the invitation of the Committee to review the status of the amendment to article 43, paragraph 2, of the Convention and noted that the amendment, proposed on 17 April 1995 by the Government of Costa Rica, was intended to increase the number of members of the Committee from 10 to 18. In its resolution 50/155 of 21 December 1995, the General Assembly had approved the amendment and urged States parties to take appropriate measures so that acceptance of the amendment by two thirds of States parties could be reached as soon as possible for the amendment to enter into force. By 6 January 2000, only 71 States parties had ratified the amendment. The situation was of concern to the Committee, which was currently under-staffed and had 152 country reports pending consideration. She therefore asked the representatives of States parties to invite their respective Governments to speed up the process of ratifying the amendment.

2. Mr. FULCI underlined the absolute necessity of enlarging the Committee and noted that the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention had adopted the amendment in question by consensus, but that 57 States parties had still not ratified it.

3. Ms. CLARKE (Barbados) said that her Government had accepted the amendment and wished to obtain clarification of the notification procedure.

4. The CHAIRPERSON said that the Secretariat had circulated a model instrument of ratification.

5. Mr. NAHAYO (Burundi) suggested that, at the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights, the High Commissioner for Human Rights should once again urge the delegations of States parties to the Convention to ratify the amendment in question. He would also like to know whether the Secretariat could provide a French version of the model instrument of ratification to those countries requesting it.

6. The CHAIRPERSON pointed out that the High Commissioner for Human Rights took every opportunity to invite the Governments concerned to ratify the amendment and that a reminder to that effect had been addressed to the seventh meeting of States parties, held in New York on 16 February 1999.

7. Ms. KOKAJEV (Estonia) said that the Government of Estonia would give notification of its acceptance of the amendment during the first half of 2000.

8. Mr. SABHARWAL (India) said that, despite administrative delays hindering his country's ratification of the amendment, the process was well under way.

9. Mr. KESTORAS (Cyprus) said that his Government had also initiated the process of ratifying the amendment.

10. The CHAIRPERSON, having thanked all the country representatives present for their encouraging remarks, said that the Committee was relying heavily on their intervening with their respective Governments to achieve the earliest possible ratification of the amendment to article 43, paragraph 2, of the Convention.

The discussion covered in the summary record ended at 3.45 p.m.